

# Water and Wastewater Rate Increase Notice

City of San Bruno

July, 2014

In accordance with the five-year rate schedule adopted by the City Council on July 24, 2012, all water and wastewater rates will increase on utility bills generated on or after July 1, 2014. The new rates for these services will increase by approximately 10% and are provided on this insert.

For questions regarding water and wastewater services and rates, please call the City of San Bruno Finance Department at **650-616-7086**. For more information, please visit: [www.sanbruno.ca.gov/finance\\_utilitybilling.html](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/finance_utilitybilling.html)

## Water Monthly Service and Usage Charges

### Water Monthly Service Charges

The rate structure for water service consists of a monthly service charge based on the size of the water meter, plus a usage charge for all metered water consumption. The rates for all water bills generated on or after July 1, 2014 are as follows:

	Meter Size	Service Charge
Single-Family Residential	All	\$ 17.99
Multi-Family, Business, Commercial and Industrial	3/4"	\$ 17.99
	1"	\$ 27.82
	1-1/2"	\$ 52.41
	2"	\$ 82.58
	3"	\$ 145.35
	4"	\$ 249.08
	6"	\$ 494.91
	8"	\$ 816.30
	10"	\$ 1,213.21

### Water Consumption Usage Charges

One unit of water equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons

	Units	Unit Price
Single-Family Residential	Tier 1: 0-10 units	\$ 6.10
	Tier 2: 11-20 units	\$ 7.32
	Tier 3: 21+ units	\$ 9.76
All Other Accounts	Each Unit	\$ 6.90

The amount by which the water bills at any particular property will be affected by these rate increases depends on the size of the meter connection and the amount of water consumed. Any account for which the City of San Bruno must procure water from North Coast County Water District to provide service may be charged a Differential Cost of Supply Charge reflecting the higher cost of water procured from this source. At this time, there is no cost differential.

## Wastewater Monthly Service and Quantity Charges

### Wastewater Monthly Service Charges

The rate structure for wastewater service consists of a uniform monthly service charge for all properties, plus a quantity charge based on metered water usage. For all residential accounts, the quantity charge is based on the average metered water use consumed through two billing periods during the winter months (November through April).

The rates effective for all wastewater bills generated on or after July 1, 2014, are as follows:

	Meter Size	Service Charge
Single-Family Residential	All	\$ 23.04
All Other Accounts (Based on Water Meter Size)	3/4"	\$ 23.04
	1"	\$ 32.26
	1-1/2"	\$ 55.30
	2"	\$ 82.94
	3"	\$ 147.46
	4" and above	\$ 239.62

### Quantity Charges Based on Property Classification

For information regarding property classification, please visit: [www.sanbruno.ca.gov/finance\\_utilitybilling.html](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/finance_utilitybilling.html).

	Property Classification	Unit Price
All Residential	R	\$ 8.37
Commercial	C-1	\$ 7.78
	C-2	\$ 8.37
	C-3	\$ 11.91
	C-4	\$ 15.45
Government	G	\$ 8.37
Industrial	I-1	\$ 8.37
	I-2	\$ 6.01
	COD per lb	\$ 0.46
	SS per lb	\$ 0.95

## Cost of Providing Reliable Water and Wastewater Services Are Rising

### Why rates are increasing:

The City of San Bruno has a very old utility system. Our 300 miles of water distribution pipelines and sewer collection system average 60 years old—some pipelines are over 100 years old. Many water lines in the older areas of the City are subject to leaks or breaks. Several water tanks and pump stations require significant rehabilitation to improve system reliability and ability to withstand a major earthquake. Many wastewater lines are decaying and are partially damaged by tree roots that can result in backups.

In order to move the repair and rehabilitation program forward, the City has created a 10-year plan to replace and upsize the aging pipelines to reduce sewer overflows and assure adequate water and sewer capacity. In addition, replacement of water tanks, wells, pump stations, and improvements to the sewer treatment facility will bring both systems up to the current standards. These improvements are necessary to preserve the long term integrity of the City's water and sewer systems.

During the past year, the City completed the Sanitary Sewer Inspection project, which provides visual assessments of the City's 87 miles of aging sewer lines. The information from this project is critical to assisting the City to identify and conduct needed repairs to the sewer collection system and to begin design for needed infrastructure replacements.

In addition, the City completed the design phase on several important sewer and water projects and is in construction on others. The following capital improvement projects are underway:

- Construction of the College Pump Station, located at Skyline Boulevard and College Drive, is nearing completion.
- Pre-construction work for replacement of Well 15 is occurring at a new location adjacent to the Crossing development.
- Olympic Sewer Pump Station and Force Main project is starting construction this summer at Olympic and Oakmont Drives.
- Replacement of water mains on Spyglass and Merion Drives will commence construction this summer.
- Water Tank #3, adjacent to Skyline Boulevard, is being completely replaced with a new reinforced concrete tank to better withstand a major earthquake.
- Water Tank #1, located on Cunningham Way, is under design for replacement.
- The City is also working with the City of South San Francisco to improve and expand the jointly owned sewer treatment facility.

The rate increase includes impacts from future increases in the cost of wholesale water purchased from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Hetch-Hetchy water system, which supplies approximately 50% of San Bruno's water. An increase of 46% in the cost of water is projected in the next five years as San Francisco undertakes its own major capital improvement program to ensure seismic safety and the reliability of its water delivery system. In order to better access the SFPUC's system, the City is completing the design of two new water connection structures which will better regulate the use of this water source.

For more information and a complete list of the current and upcoming sewer and water projects please refer to:

[www.sanbruno.ca.gov/pw\\_proj\\_current.html](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/pw_proj_current.html)

### Ways to reduce your water and sewer bills:

San Bruno understands that its customers are facing tough economic times. Customers can reduce their bills by conserving water, especially during the winter months of November through April, which will also lower sewer costs. In addition, the City offers the following water conservation programs:

- **High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate.** An incentive program to encourage the replacement of 20+ year old toilet with an EPA WaterSense toilet. (up to \$100 rebate available)
- **Lawn Be Gone!** A rebate program to convert lawns into water efficient landscapes. (\$1 per square foot of replaced lawn)
- **Washing Machine Rebates.** Purchase a qualifying washing machine and receive a rebate. (up to \$200 rebate available)
- **Landscape classes.** Free classes that provide information on herbage that enhances curb appeal and promotes water conservation. Register at [bawasca.org/water-conservation](http://bawasca.org/water-conservation)

For additional information, please visit [bawasca.org](http://bawasca.org) or [sanbruno.ca.gov/pw\\_water\\_rebates.html](http://sanbruno.ca.gov/pw_water_rebates.html)

You can also help to ensure that future sewer rates remain low by keeping harmful materials like fats, grease, and oils out of the sewer system. For more information, please visit [www.calfog.org](http://www.calfog.org)

In addition, the City of San Bruno offers a low-income program that provides a 25% reduction in rates for qualified customers. This program is based on the size of the household plus total combined annual income, as shown below.

Household Size	Total Combined Annual Income (Not to Exceed)
1	\$38,750
2	\$44,300
3	\$49,850
4	\$55,350
5	\$59,800
6	\$64,250
7	\$68,650
8	\$73,100

For more information or to apply for low income program, please visit [www.sanbruno.ca.gov/finance\\_lowincome2.html](http://www.sanbruno.ca.gov/finance_lowincome2.html)

### Paying your bill

**Avoid late penalties** by signing up for **automatic payment services** through the City of San Bruno. There is no charge for this service and it's convenient. You can also pay your bill online at [www.onlinebiller.com/sanbruno](http://www.onlinebiller.com/sanbruno)

Residential customers are **billed every two months** on approximately the same day each period. Customers living east of Interstate 280 are billed during the even months (e.g. February and April). Customers living west of Interstate 280 are billed during the odd months (e.g. January and March). The billing period is approximately 60 days and is detailed at the top of each billing statement.

**Cash, check and Visa and MasterCard** payments are **accepted** at City Hall, **Monday through Friday** 8 am to 5 pm. A 24-hour **drop box** is available outside the Linden Avenue entrance to City Hall, however, customers **should not leave cash payments in the drop box**.